

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to take this opportunity to commemorate the more than 8 million people—6 million of whom were Jewish—who a little more than a half century ago were brutally, deliberately, and systematically exterminated in a state-sponsored effort to annihilate their religious, cultural, and ethnic existence. All across the United States, Americans are commemorating Yom Ha'Shoah—Remembrance Day for those who a couple of generations ago were exterminated in the death camps of Nazi Germany.

Today, I join millions of my fellow Americans and people all over the world in remembering the victims of the Holocaust. I also unite with those from around the country, including my constituents of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford, IL, to recognize those who risked their lives and those who died trying to intervene and save those who were targets of systematic extermination.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford is commemorating Yom Ha'Shoah by paying tribute to the "Righteous Gentiles," those non-Jews who risked death to help save the lives of Jews and others from Hitler's killing machine. These courageous people acted out of a conviction that they simply could not stand by and witness so great an injustice, so horrific a crime perpetrated against fellow human beings. In my district, I am privileged to have one of the surviving Righteous Gentiles, Irene Opdyke, addressing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford. Her presence alone is a testament to human compassion in the face of grave personal danger. Yet, her words of wisdom as she relates her personal experiences at saving lives will remind us of what courageous and conscientious people can do and should do when injustice is acted out on a grand scale.

We all admire the actions of the Righteous Gentiles. For it was through their courageous efforts to save those condemned to the gas chambers and firing squads that a remnant survived to preserve for us the memory of those who perished, as well as a personal account of the atrocities of that time. In essence, we are all survivors of the Holocaust. Although most of us never experienced its horrors first hand, we carry with us the knowledge and memory of those who did. We subscribe to the common value that human life is precious and abhor the evil committed by the perpetrators of the Holocaust. Therefore, as survivors we must rededicate ourselves to the proposition that we can never again allow the Holocaust to recur. We must never forget our sense of duty—bravely exemplified by the Righteous Gentiles and others—nor neglect our sense of compassion for the welfare of our fellow man.

In the words of Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and honorary first chairman of the Holocaust Council, [We cannot] allow anyone or anything to deprive [us] of the great, great miracle which renders a human being sensitive to others."

Mr. Speaker, 1997 marks the 3,300th year of the establishment of the city of Jerusalem. This year is also the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem after the Six-Day War. While there will be ceremonies recognizing these events, we must not forget to pause again this year in solemn remembrance of Yom Ha'Shoah. I urge all of us to take time out to remember those who died in the Holocaust and I commend those such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford and Irene Opdyke who remind us of our obligation to never forget.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DIX RETIRES FROM AIR FORCE AFTER 24 YEARS; A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN ACTIVE DUTY, RECRUITING AND RE- SERVES

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief M. Sgt. Ronald W. Dix upon his retirement and to ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Dix for his 24 years of service and for his symbolic representation of all that is good about our Armed Forces, and particularly those of the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard.

Chief Dix was on active duty with the Air Force from September 5, 1961 to September 4, 1965, serving as protocol NCO at Wheelus AFB, Tripoli, Libya and at Lindsay Air Station, Weisbaden, Germany. During this time, Chief Dix was also a member of the 37th Air Defense Missile Squadron at Kinchloe AFB, Sault St. Marie, MI.

In January 1978, he joined the Air National Guard, accepting an assignment in the Base Preparedness Office. In 1981, he was reassigned to active duty as a recruiter. Chief Dix was instrumental in attracting and inspiring young men and women to join the Air Guard in service to their country. In 1984, he was assigned as training NCO in the Civil Engineer Squadron of the 174th Fighter Wing and participated in many overseas deployment.

During his final time with the New York Air National Guard, Chief Dix served as the facilities manager for the entire Hancock Field Air National Guard Base. Some of his decorations for meritorious service include: The Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with four devices, the Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with five devices, the National Defense Service, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Over-

seas Long and Short Tour Ribbon, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, the New York State Commendation Medal and the New York Conspicuous Service Cross.

Upon completion of such exemplary service to our Nation, I commend Chief Dix and wish him well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEDICATION OF THE BAUMGARTNER HOUSE HIS- TORICAL DESIGNATION PLAQUE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the history of the United States is one of a colorful patchwork, stitched by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. Today, the Fraser Historical Commission with the people of the town of Fraser, will celebrate their history by decorating the Baumgartner House with a Michigan historical marker.

In 1856, John Christian Baumgartner, a native of Bavaria, became one of the first landowners in Fraser when he purchased 80 acres of land. With his wife and children, Mr. Baumgartner erected a magnificent farm house with outbuildings.

The architecture of the home is German rundbogenstil, meaning round-arched windows. Windows are the focal point of the home and are surrounded by corbelling. The house is a perfect symmetrical square, made entirely of brick. This type of architecture is rare in Michigan but was popular in the United States from the 1840's to the 1860's.

This unique home, complete with a grain farm, orchard, and outbuildings was inhabited by the Baumgartner family until 1907. Four families dwelled in the home until in 1981 when the city of Fraser purchased the home and converted it into a museum.

It is important that monuments to our past are preserved for future generations to witness. I would like to congratulate the people of Fraser for their commitment to preserving our past for our future.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FRANK SINATRA

SPEECH OF

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise perhaps in lone opposition to H.R. 279, authorizing up to \$30,000 for a congressional gold medal for Frank Sinatra. While I have no doubt that the resolution will be approved by a majority of the House, I cannot in good conscience join in support of this extravagance at

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